

419

The  
BULLETIN

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

OXFORD, NEW JERSEY

By

A. G. YOUNT  
*Minister*



Oxford Historical Record

For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eye-witnesses of his majesty, when we were with him in the holy mount.

---II Peter 1: 16, 18

"O God, who on the mount didst reveal to chosen witnesses thine only-begotten Son wonderfully transfigured, in raiment white and glistering; Mercifully grant that we, being delivered from the disquietude of this world, may be permitted to behold the King in his beauty, who with thee, O Father, liveth and reigneth for ever. Amen.

-----

The Bulletin has received from our friends, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Miller, of Oakland Calif., the very interesting program of the annual aeroplane races held in Oakland the last days of May. The program is illustrated, rich in historical and descriptive matters.

To us it was of special interest because Mrs. Miller was prominently mentioned as the donor to the U.S. Naval Station at Oakland, of the first aeroplane made in Calif. over 35 years ago. It seems her first husband, who owned a ship-building plant, helped make this plane, which was the first to fly over Oakland. It is now a cherished national relic.

-----

(from second page)

for half a century, and had just passed out of their hands; he seems to harbor no feeling of vindictiveness, and to be more affected by the suffering that had come upon his former employees than by his own losses. And I think that his brief reference to the beauty of Oxford landscape is really classical in its style; would that he had completed the letter! It throws a strong light on his gentle and lovable character. He was a very versatile as well as an able engineer."

William H. Scranton  
(Uncompleted letter to Mr. Humphrey)

Oxford History  
By Col. Charles Scranton  
(Concluded from last issue)

Saturday Afternoon February 11,  
1888. Dear George:

Your welcome letter was duly rec'd and I was very happy indeed to hear from you once more--not that I thought you had forgotten me, for the period of our association covers some of the most eventful years of our lives and can never be forgotten by either of us. Old Oxford will always be dear to us both, for its memories and associations as well as for its intrinsic beauties. In reference to these last it is a comforting thought that we have an inalienable proprietorship in them.

All this fair landscape with its wooded hills, its stretches of meadow and valley, its pure springs and stout clean air, are ours--whatever else property we may hold or lose in life--these can no man take away from us; and it will be a happy day that sees my partner with me here on the hill tops, surveying our own and talking over old times and old friends whose memory some how grows brighter and dearer with the lapse of years. I look over these properties now with a calm indifference that sometimes surprises me, and since the recent strikes, and during the long continuance of suspension of the works (now in the third month) with a feeling of congratulation that I am free from all worry--the humiliating dominance of Wall Street and the responsibility of suffering that must exist to a certain extent in a community like this in the midst of such a winter and.....

-----  
Mr. Humphrey sends, with the above letter, this explanatory note:-

"Last week I had a very pleasant visit with Grace Scranton, who is a grand daughter of George W. , and while here she gave me an uncompleted letter written to me more than 50 years ago by William Scranton, and which she recently found among some of his papers.

To fully appreciate it, one must remember that from his home he could look out on the great estate which had been in possession of his family  
(see first page)

Among the customs of the old inhabitants there prevailed a very common one of making frolics or bees as they were sometimes called. For instance, a man desirous of clearing a new piece of land to get it ready for the plough, would go around to his neighbors and ask them to a chopping frolic. These would gather together a good many men from various parts and then they would all begin to cut and slash away at the trees, cutting into fire-wood and logs for the saw-mill and timber for new buildings. One man or boy would usually go around with a jug of apple whiskey every little while, and the men cutting the wood, or a good many of them, would take a drink.

Then when night came on all would go to the farmer's house and take supper and tell over big stories of what each could do, or what their fathers or somebody else had done in their time. Then they would have stone frolics, and mowing frolics, and almost every kind of gathering in force, in order to accomplish a big job in a little time.

And the women would have spinning bees and apple cuts and quilting parties; but they had tea. They were generally free from the vice then prevalent of drinking rum.

In these old times almost every family had a big wheel to spin yarn from wool for making stockings and for weaving into what was then called homespun. They also had little spinning wheels to spin flax for weaving into linen for their sheets and table cloths and underclothing.

Nowadays there is scarcely a spinning wheel of this kind in use; for inventors have made machinery that works up the wool and flax many times faster than was done by hand; and the women have more time to attend to their other household duties, and also have more time to read and teach their families.

There appears to have been a friendly feeling existing among the early settlers of this Township, although at town meetings and elections

(over)

sometimes a few would get quarrelsome by having drunk too much, and have a few rough and tumble fights.

But now these things have passed away. The people don't allow any liquor sold on election days, and people are inclined to be more temperate since temperance societies have been formed.

Oxford Township was once very much larger than it is now. It included within its limits a part of Hope Township, a part of Harmony, and the Town of Belvidere. (White township was then a part of Oxford Township. Ed).

Iron was made here nearly 140 years ago, and the same mines are now used that then were.

The population of Oxford was small at the time of the Revolutionary War, but it furnished a few soldiers. They are now all dead who lived 100 years ago in Oxford.

Oxford contains about as much population as the whole of Warren county did a hundred years ago, and as much or more iron is now made in Oxford as was made in all Jersey 100 years ago. Then we had no railroads or canals. Now we have a good many. I forgot to say that No. 1 Furnace was built in 1742 by Judge Jonathan Robeson, and the mill and furnace race, as we now see it, was dug by Richard Shackleton in 1742.

He was grandfather of Judge Benjamin Shackleton of Jersey City, N. J.

The big spring of good water near Wolfinger's farm, called the Irish Spring, took its name from a number of Irish woodchoppers, who built their cabins near it.

There are a number of hills or mountains in and around Oxford having various names as: Scotts Mountain, Mount No-More, Rattlesnake Hill, Jenney Jump, Vulcan Hill, Round Top.

Tradition tells how they received their names.

Oxford has been settled as we have seen over 150 years, and this part of it has about 3,000 population, and there has never been a licensed hotel in the place all that time. The people are noted for their industry and good behavior, and compare favorably with any other district in the country of the same kind and population." (The end).



CHURCH OFFICERS

*The Session*

A. G. YOUNT, *Moderator*

*Elders*

ABRAM PITTENGER	ELISHA B. FOSS
EMMANUEL KELSKY	LEWIS BERGENBACK



*Board of Trustees*

JAMES RADEL	HARRY MILLER
GEORGE DOCKER, JR.	CHARLES RENNER
FRED K. SARSON	LEWIS E. GREEN
BENJAMIN GREEN	CHARLES DUX
HAYDEN DOCKER	



*Church Treasurer*

LEWIS E. GREEN



*Sunday School*

<i>Superintendent</i> .....	E. B. FOSS
<i>Assistant Superintendent</i> .....	KENNETH BELL
<i>Secretary</i> .....	ALVIN RENNER
<i>Treasurer</i> .....	VIRGINIA ZAPP
<i>Organist</i> .....	FLORENCE WILDRICK



*Ladies' Aid Society*

<i>President</i> .....	MRS. DELMAR GREEN
<i>Vice-President</i> .....	MRS. LELAND BAYLISS
<i>Secretary</i> .....	MRS. VIOLET BELL
<i>Treasurer</i> .....	MRS. LEWIS E. GREEN

